

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A mold component of a mold assembly that includes a first mold and a second mold which close to thereby define a cavity therebetween for molding a substrate for an optical recording medium, the mold component being mounted to a mounting portion of the first mold of the mold assembly, and comprising:

a stamper having a molding surface configured to form micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the optical recording medium; and

a stamper holder configured to hold said stamper thereon, said stamper holder having a generally hollow cylindrical shape such that said stamper holder can be mounted to the mounting portion of the first mold,

wherein said stamper has an insertion hole extending through a central portion thereof, the insertion hole having a diameter which is larger than an outer diameter of a cavity-side end of said stamper holder when said stamper is at a higher temperature than a normal temperature, and, the insertion hole diameter being smaller than the outer diameter of the cavity-side end of said stamper holder when said stamper is at a normal temperature and is not held on the stamper holder, said stamper being held on said stamper holder, with the cavity-side end of said stamper holder being grasped by a rim of the insertion hole which has the smaller diameter when the stamper is at the normal temperature, after having the cavity-side end of said stamper holder inserted therein when the stamper is at

the higher temperature.

2. (Previously Presented) A mold component as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stamper holder is configured such that the outer diameter of the cavity-side end thereof is smaller than an outer diameter of an end of said stamper holder opposite to the cavity-side end.

3. (Currently Amended) A mold assembly for defining a cavity for molding a substrate for an optical recording medium, comprising:

a first mold having a mounting portion;

a second mold which closes together with said first mold to thereby define a cavity between said first mold and said second mold;

a stamper having a molding surface configured to form micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the optical recording medium; and

a stamper holder configured to hold said stamper thereon, said stamper holder having a generally hollow cylindrical shape such that said stamper holder can be mounted to said mounting portion of said first mold,

wherein said stamper has an insertion hole extending through a central portion thereof, the insertion hole having a diameter which is larger than an outer diameter of a cavity-side end of said stamper holder when said stamper is at a higher temperature than a normal temperature, and the insertion hole diameter being smaller than the outer diameter of the cavity-side end of said stamper holder when said stamper is at a normal temperature

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and is not held on the stamper holder, said stamper being held on said stamper holder, with the cavity-side end of said stamper holder being grasped by a rim of the insertion hole which has the smaller diameter when the stamper is at the normal temperature, after having the cavity-side end of said stamper holder inserted therein when the stamper is at the higher temperature.

4. (Previously Presented) A mold assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein said stamper holder is configured such that the outer diameter of the cavity-side end thereof is smaller than an outer diameter of an end of said stamper holder opposite to the cavity-side end.

5. (Previously Presented) A mold assembly as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a sprue bushing disposed in said first mold, said stamper holder being mounted on an outer periphery thereof,

wherein a cavity-side end face of said stamper holder is slightly protruded toward the cavity with respect to a cavity-side end face of said sprue bushing, and wherein the molding surface of said stamper is slightly protruded toward the cavity with respect to the cavity-side end face of said stamper holder.

6. (Previously Presented) A mold assembly as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a sprue bushing disposed in said first mold, said stamper holder being mounted on an outer periphery thereof,

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wherein a cavity-side end face of said stamper holder is slightly protruded toward the cavity with respect to a cavity-side end face of said sprue bushing, and

wherein the molding surface of said stamper is slightly protruded toward the cavity with respect to the cavity-side end face of said stamper holder.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A mold assembly, comprising:

a stamper configured to mold a surface of a substrate for an optical recording medium, said stamper having an insertion hole; and

a stamper holder, said stamper holder including a holding portion inserted within the insertion hole, wherein said stamper is secured to the holding portion of said stamper holder by heat shrinkage,

wherein a height of the holding portion is less than a height of the stamper.